

In the Specification:

Please amend the specification as shown:

Please delete the paragraph on page 16, lines 1-5 and replace it with the following paragraph:

A generally preferred PNA probe for many invention applications includes (or in some embodiments essentially consists of) the following sequence: CCT ACC ACC TTA AAC **(SEQ ID NO: 1)** as well as the complement of that sequence. Sometimes the sequence (and its complement) is referred to as a "preferred probing nucleobase" sequence or related phrase.

Please delete the paragraph on page 27, lines 1-18 and replace it with the following paragraph:

Fluorescence in situ hybridization (FISH).

Smears were covered with approximately 50 µL of hybridization solution containing 10% (w/v) dextran sulfate (Sigma Chemical Co., St. Louis, MO), 10 mM NaCl (J.T.Baker), 30% (v/v) formamide (Sigma), 0.1% (w/v) sodium pyrophosphate (Sigma), 0.2% (w/v) polyvinylpyrrolidone (Sigma), 0.2% (w/v) ficoll (Sigma), 5 mM Na₂EDTA (Sigma), 1% (v/v) Triton X-100 (Aldrich), 50 mM Tris/HCl pH 7.5 and 500 nM fluorescein-labeled PNA probe (Flu-OO-CCTACCACCTTAAAC) **(SEQ ID NO: 1)** targeting *Pseudomonas* (sensu stricto). Coverslips were placed on the smears to ensure even coverage with hybridization solution, and the slides were subsequently placed on a slide warmer with a humidity chamber (Slidemount, Boeckel, Germany) and incubated for 90 min at 50°C. Following hybridization, the coverslips were removed by submerging the slides into approximately 20 mL/slide pre-warmed 5 mM Tris, pH 10, 15 mM NaCl (J.T.Baker), 0.1% Triton X-100 (Aldrich) in a water bath at 50°C and washed for 30 min. Each smear was finally mounted using one drop of Mounting Fluid and covered with a coverslip. Microscopic examination was conducted using a fluorescence microscope equipped with a FITC/Texas Red dual band filter set. *Pseudomonas* (sensu stricto) was identified as green fluorescent rods.

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Amendment And Response
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Please add the presently-submitted Sequence Listing (page 30) and re-number originally filed pages 30-33 to 31-34.

Kindly also add the Abstract shown on the next page as the last page of the specification.